

The arrangement of the specimens is in accordance with the *Genera Plantarum* of Bentham and Hooker. The number of shelves or spaces occupied by the larger natural orders is about as follows: Ranunculaceæ 12, Cruciferae 20, Caryophyllaceæ 12, Malvaceæ 12, Leguminosæ 80, Rosaceæ 35, Onagraceæ 14, Umbelliferae 20, Rubiaceæ 16, Compositæ 180, Ericaceæ 18, Borraginaceæ 14, Solanaceæ 12, Scrophulariaceæ 25, Labiatae 24, Polygonaceæ 18, Euphorbiaceæ 15, Cupuliferae 16, Coniferae 20, Liliaceæ 22, Cyperaceæ 36, Gramineæ 120, Filices 40.

No complete catalogue of the plants has been made, but it is estimated that of the 10,000 or more species of the United States (excluding the cellular cryptogams) there are represented about nine-tenths. Of foreign plants the Herbarium contains probably fully as many species as of native ones.

The native species are represented in many cases by a large number of specimens showing the range of the species, derived from important government surveys and expeditions, which gives them an historic value, as well as representing the types upon which the species were founded. The entire number of mounted sheets is from sixty to seventy thousand.

The Library connected with the Herbarium contains all the common North American botanical text-books and manuals, all the United States government reports, most of the other larger works relating to the flora of this country, and nearly all the large systematic works published in English or Latin. These pertain especially to flowering plants and ferns, few important accessions on the cellular cryptogams having yet been received.

The Herbarium and Library are at all times accessible, during business hours, to students and investigators, and is well worthy of the attention of specialists and botanists who may visit Washington.

BRIEFER ARTICLES.

Articles in back numbers.—Arrangement of herbaria, xi. 98, 120; treatment of exsiccatae, xi. 20; mounting plants, cement, ix. 62, glue, iv. 215, xi. 67, 120; preserving plants, carbon bisulphide, ii. 100, poison, i. 27; pressure in making specimens, i. 21; shipping live plants, ii. 107, 133; Myxomycetes, their collection and preservation, x. 290.

Mounting delicate plants.—To mount delicate ferns and other plants, take a pane of glass of sufficient size and coat lightly with rather thin fish glue. Lay the plant on the glass and put a newspaper over it, or the reverse. With handkerchief in hand, rub the paper so that every part of the plant will touch the glue. Remove the paper, then carefully lift the plant from the glass and